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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/081,924	02/20/2002	Joshua Farrell Hicks	243768077US	4588

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EXAMINER

CHEN, TE Y

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2171

DATE MAILED: 08/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/081,924

Applicant(s)

HICKS ET AL.

Examiner

Susan Y Chen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/12/2002.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-10 are presented for examination.

Specification

The specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicants' cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicants may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S.

Patent No. (6,418,441 issued to Call, in view of Zale et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,233,536).

As to claim 8, Call discloses a system [e.g., Abstract, Fig. 1] for facilitating access to machine parts information, comprising:

a) a processor [e.g., the Product Code Translator 101, the Internet Service

Provider 111, Fig. 1] coupled to a first set of legacy parts information [e.g., the inventory

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data 105, the product information 103, Fig. 1] legacy parts information including a unique part identifier for each of a plurality of unique parts [e.g., the Universal product codes, Abstract, lines 3-4], the legacy parts information having an abbreviated text description of at least some of the parts [col. 1, lines 65 –col. 2, line 8], the processor being programmed to: translate each of the abbreviated text descriptions into a plain language title [e.g., the Product Code Translator 101 translates the abbreviated product codes to a particular manufacture product Internet URL, col. 2, lines 40 –56; col. 4, lines 26-46]; and

b) a database to associate the plain language title with the part identifier for the part in an entry in a computer searchable database [e.g. the cross-references database tables as shown in Fig. 2 and associated texts; col. 2, lines 25-26];

c) a user interface for accessing the parts information by way of plain text (e.g., the Internet URL) [e.g., the units: 438, 410, Fig. 6 and associated texts].

Call did not expressly disclose that the unique part identifier is a steam turbine part.

However, Zale et al. (hereinafter referred as Zale) discloses a complex steam turbine machine [e.g., col. 1, line 18] which including a unique parts number as claimed by applicant [col. 2, lines 55-67].

Thus, with the teachings of Call and Zale in front of him/her, it would have been obvious for an ordinary skilled artisan at the time the invention was made to modify the

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product code of Call's to include the unique part identifiers of steam turbine machine as suggested by Zale, because by doing so, Call's system will be upgraded to provide the accessing of the parts information for a complex steam turbine machine over Internet via the unique product code identifiers.

As to claim 9, except the features recited in claim 1 as discussed above, the combined system further discusses that the processor is programmed to provide a distribution code [e.g., the company ID field, col. 7, lines 4-36] in the computer searchable database for each of the parts, the distribution code identifying at least one salable unit to which the part belongs [Fig. 2 and associated texts].

As to claim 10, except the features recited in claim 1 as discussed above, the combined system further discusses that the processor is also programmed to provide a category identifier in the computer searchable database for each of the plurality of the parts, the category identifier associating the part with at least one machine subassembly to which the part belongs [e.g., the electronic catalog of the EDI system, col. 13, lines 65 – col. 14, line 20; the Resource Description Framework processing, col. 25, lines 20-60].

As to claims 1-7, the steps in the claimed method are deemed to be made obvious by the functions of the apparatus structure of claims 8-10 in the combination discussed above, hence were rejected for the same reasons.

Conclusion

To expedite the process of examination, the examiner requests that all future correspondences in regard to overcoming prior art rejections or other issues (e.g. 35 U.S.C. 112) set forth by the Examiner prior to the office action, that applicant should provide and link to the most specific page and line numbers of the disclosure where best support is found (see 35 U.S.C. 132).

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Chipman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,038,668) which discloses a system with means and steps to retrieve, organize and utilizing network data.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan Y Chen whose telephone number is (703) 308-1155. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on (703) 308-1436. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Susan Y Chen
Examiner
Art Unit 2171

August 9, 2004



UYEN LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER